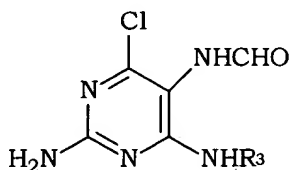


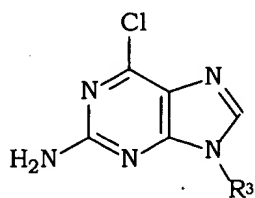
FI wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen; hydroxyl; a  $C_{3-7}$  carbocyclic group, optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; an acyclic group, wherein such acyclic groups may be optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; or a  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group, wherein said  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group has a one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of a N, O and S atom and wherein such  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

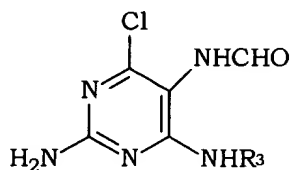
wherein  $R^3$  is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

18. (Amended Five Times) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

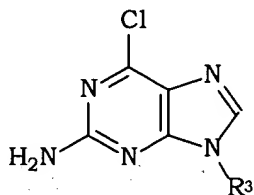
wherein  $R^3$  is a  $C_{3-7}$  carbocyclic group, optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; an acyclic group, wherein such acyclic group may be optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; or a  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group, wherein said  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group has a one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of a N, O and S atom and wherein such  $C_{4-7}$  heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

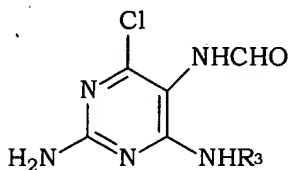
<sup>2</sup> wherein R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

<sup>3</sup> 22. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

wherein R<sup>3</sup> is an acyclic group, wherein such acyclic group may be optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, and halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein R<sup>3</sup> is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.